

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STUTTG 01332 130518Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 SY-05 /077 W  
-----119354 140908Z /10

R 121500Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4469  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT BY POUCH  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

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USCINCEUR AND CINCUSAREUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: THE FILBINGER AFFAIR

REF: STUTTGART 1325

1. THE PRESS ON JULY 12 REPORTS THAT THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE  
INTERIOR IN BONN HAS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED THAT THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG  
STAATSMINISTERIUM WAS IN FACT NOTIFIED ON MAY 24 THAT FEDERAL  
ARCHIVES HAD REVEALED MINISTER-PRESIDENT FILBINGER WAS INVOLVED  
IN TWO OTHER CASES INVOLVING DEATH SENTENCES IN 1945, CONTRARY TO  
FILBINGER'S EARLIER DENIAL (MADE ON MAY 5). THIS OF COURSE RAISES  
THE QUESTION WHY FILBINGER DID NOT SPEAK OUT IMMEDIATELY TO SET  
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THE RECORD STRAIGHT, FOR THE PUBLIC IS LEFT TO SURMISE THAT HE  
MIGHT NOT HAVE SPOKEN OUT AT ALL UNTIL HE WAS FORCED INTO IT WHEN  
THE INFORMATION BECAME PUBLIC ON JULY 4. SO YET ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT  
COMES TO FUEL THE CONTROVERSY OVER FILBINGER (PARA 8 REFTTEL). THE  
STORY IS FRONT PAGE NEW JULY 12 IN THE STUTTGART PRESS AND PROMPTS  
FURTHER SPECULATION OVER WHETHER FILBINGER WILL STEP DOWN.

2. THE STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN ATTRIBUTES TO CDU SOURCES A REPORT THAT AT DREGGER'S INSTIGATION, HELMUT KOHL AND CDU SECRETARY GENERAL GEISSLER SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH WITH FILBINGER BY PHONE LAST WEEK AND URGED HIM TO RESIGN, BUT FILBINGER REFUSED. THE PRESS NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PROMINENT CDU FIGURES, E.G., GERSTENMAIER, ARE SPEAKING OUT IN SUPPORT OF FILBINGER.

3. THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG REPORTS THAT IN THE ISSUE GOING ON SALE JULY 13 DER STERN WILL CARRY AN INTERVIEW WITH STUTTGART LORD MAYOR ROMMEL THAT IS NOT WHOLLY FLATTERING TO FILBINGER. THE NACHRICHTEN ALSO REPORTS THE RESULTS OF A STRAW POLL IN WHICH CDU MEMBERS OF THE LANDTAG (OF A TOTAL 71 CDU MEMBERS) ARE SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR ROMMEL FOR MINISTER-PRESIDENT IN 1980. THE NACHRICHTEN ADDS THAT ONE REASON CDU MEMBERS OF THE LANDTAG ARE APPARENTLY RELUCTANT TO CRITICIZE FILBINGER OPENLY AND THUS FURTHER UNDERMINE HIS POSITION IS IN ORDER NOT TO PROPEL BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG INTERIOR MINISTER SPAETH INTO THE MINISTER-PRESIDENCY.

4. COMMENT: THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT COULD BE THE MOST SERIOUS YET FOR FILBINGER. IT IS ONE THING TO CLAIM, AS HE HAS (REFTTEL), THAT HE DID NOT "REMEMBER" BEING INVOLVED WITH OTHER DEATH SENTENCES, BUT IT IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER TO EXPLAIN AWAY WHY HE CONTINUED TO REMAIN SILENT ONCE HIS MEMORY HAD BEEN REFRESHED BY THE RECORD. THIS IS INDEED LIKELY TO TAX BELIEF IN FILBINGER'S CREDIBILITY AND HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOOD FAITH. IT WAS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO TELL WHETHER FILBINGER HELPED HIS CASE WITH HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE HIS CDU COLLEAGUES AND THE PRESS ON JULY 8, BUT WHAT GOOD, IF ANY, HE DID ACCOMPLISH HAS PROBABLY BEEN WIPED OUT BY THIS LATEST REVELATION. LIKE SO MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE FILBINGER AFFAIR IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF NO MORE THAN BUNGLING IN STUTTGART'S STAATSMINISTERIUM, FOR ONE COULD HARDLY HAVE EXPECTED THE SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT IN BONN TO COVER UP FOR LONG FOR CDU FILBINGER.MILLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LITIGATION, WAR CRIMES, WORLD WAR II  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STUTTGART 1325  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, GE, (FILBINGER, HANS)  
**To:** STATE BONN  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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